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North Dakota Residents Choosing to Vote Absentee or by Mail

In North Dakota, voting is made easy through absentee and mail ballots. Please use the following information to make your voice heard through voting.

Al Jaeger
North Dakota Secretary of State
The State's Chief Election Official

☒ Voter Qualifications

North Dakota does not have voter registration. However, in order to vote in North Dakota, a voter must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A North Dakota resident; and
- A precinct resident for 30 days preceding the election.

☒ Determining Residence

To determine residence, the conditions from the North Dakota Century Code Section 54-01-26 must be met.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which the voter refers to as "home";
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;
- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

The law also states that an individual does not lose a voting residence by temporary assignment away from home.

☒ Voting Absentee or by Mail

All eligible North Dakotans have the option to request a ballot before the day of an election in a process known as absentee voting. You do not need to provide a reason for why you are requesting an absentee; however you will be required to complete an application and sign an affidavit. You may submit an application anytime during the calendar year of an election; however ballots are not available until the fortieth day before an election. Your application may be mailed, faxed, or personally delivered to your county auditor's office.

You may live in a county using mail ballot elections (at least one polling place must be open on Election Day). In such counties a mail ballot application is required to be sent to every active voter between the 50th and 40th day before the election. The application is also to be printed in the County Official Newspaper for two consecutive weeks. Furthermore, applications may be requested from the auditor's office or accessed online.

Whether you vote absentee or by mail ballot your return envelope **must** be postmarked no later than the day before the election. If you are unable to meet this deadline then you will have to go to your appropriate polling place on Election Day to cast your ballot.

☒ Application

Applications for absentee ballots may be submitted anytime within the calendar year of an election. The simplest method to apply is to electronically fill out and print the absentee application for submittal by clicking here [Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#). Additionally, election officials of the county, city, or school district will furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors upon request.

The application will request the following information from each voter desiring to vote absentee:

- voter's name;
- voter's current or most recent ND residential address;
- voter's mailing address;
- voter's current contact telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- the voter's affirmation of residence in the precinct for at least thirty days immediately prior to the election;
- voter's signature;
- the voter's status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence, or a family member of the uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence;
- voter's birth date and year;
- voter's motor vehicle operator's license or non-driver identification number, if available
- voter's fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter's email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

Absentee ballot applications are to be delivered to the appropriate election official by mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned attachment to an email. Uniformed service members stationed away from home and citizens living outside the United States may also receive and return voted ballots by fax or electronic means according to North Dakota law. For more information, please read the information found in these two documents [Military Voters](#) and [Overseas Voters](#).

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40th day before the election. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp on the envelope, email, or fax by the day before the election.

☒ ND Absentee Ballot Application

[Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#)

☒ ND County Auditors

[North Dakota Local Election Officials](#)